

**Senior Services Coalition
of Alameda County**

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Ellen Corbett
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #3
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-8386

Re: Support Restoration of CBAS Medi-Cal Rate

Dear Senator Corbett,

The Senior Services Coalition represents over 41 organizations that provide health and supportive services to seniors in Alameda County. We are writing to express our support for budget restoration of the Medi-Cal rate for the Community-Based Adult Services program to prevent further closures of CBAS/Adult Day Health centers.

CBAS services provide essential nursing, clinical, occupational and other supports to seniors and adults with disabilities and multiple complex chronic conditions. CBAS has already taken the 10% Medi-Cal cut effective June 2011, and the Governor's proposal to forgive retroactive cuts will not help CBAS. Because of the cut, Fifty-one centers have closed in the past two years (16%), a loss of about \$50 million dollars of infrastructure. At least five additional centers will close within a few months if the CBAS rate is not restored. In Alameda County, two centers have closed.

Center closures have had a devastating impact on persons with dementia, mental and physical health conditions; adult day health care overall attendance has dropped 26% since 2010-11, with 9,454 fewer persons served. Access to care is being impacted at the very time CBAS is needed to be in place for the Coordinated Care Initiative. In Alameda County, the Medi-Cal Managed Care plans estimate that they will need over 250 additional program "slots" to adequately serve their members.

CBAS was the first to take the Medi-Cal cut and should be the first to have it restored to ensure that frail California seniors and people with disabilities can live in their own homes with dignity and independence rather than being forced into costly institutional care.

The restoration of the CBAS rate is estimated to cost less than \$8 million, and will ensure necessary continuity of care to some of California's most vulnerable elders and persons with disabilities. We urge you to support the restoration of the CBAS rate to preserve access to care and prevent further closures.

Sincerely,



Wendy Peterson
Director, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County